

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Current Activities in Industrial Hygiene

The Industrial Hygiene Service of the California State Department of Public Health is making a preliminary study of the iron and steel industries of California. During the past few months 138 iron and steel plants, employing 18,866 workers, have been surveyed. These plants include open hearth furnaces, steel rolling mills, iron, steel and machinery factories, foundries, ship and boat building plants, car and railroad shops, and agriculture implement factories. Data have been obtained on safety, medical, and welfare facilities. Occupational analyses of each department and workroom have been made in order to obtain information relative to occupations, nature of the work performed, exposure to materials, and environmental conditions that may affect health, and control measures to protect the health of workers. The information obtained is being summarized, coded, tabulated, and analyzed, as a basis for an evaluation of the potential health hazards in these industries.

FIELD STUDIES

At the request of the State Industrial Accident Commission, labor unions and industrial establishments a number of field studies have been made during the past three months in places of employment where potential occupational health hazards were suspected. Among them were the following:

(1) Tests for toxic and inflammable gases and oxygen content of the air were made at a well-digging

project, where employees had been overcome by gases while engaged in excavation.

(2) An investigation into the process of manufacturing mirrors by the use of ammoniacal silver nitrate spray was made. Laboratory analyses were made of the solutions used in this process, and recommendations were made for control measures to protect the health of employees engaged in the work.

(3) In a large steel mill quantitative carbon monoxide determinations were made in the vicinity of unvented blacksmiths' forges. In the foundry of another large mill quantitative hydrogen sulphide tests and dust studies were made.

(4) At the request of a city health officer an investigation was made into the construction and method of operation of a particular type of gas heater which will be used in the city schools.

(5) At the request of a labor union an investigation was made into an outbreak of dermatitis among painters. The cause of this skin trouble was found to be in the use of organic solvents for cleaning brushes, the practice being to allow such solvents to dry on the hands. Precautionary measures, based upon proper cleaning of the hands and safeguarding against personal susceptibility, were made.

(6) In a large manufacturing establishment gasoline tractor engines used in hauling merchandise within a storage warehouse were discharging exhaust gases directly into the building, which was kept

closed in order to control the humidity. At the request of the management quantitative carbon monoxide determinations were made throughout the warehouse over a three-day period. Recommendations were prepared and submitted to plant officials for control measures to protect the health of warehouse employees who are exposed to these gases.

(7) An inspection was made of the type of air conditioning installation with which the buses of a large passenger bus company are equipped.

(8) In cooperation with the State Industrial Accident Commission quantitative tests were made for carbon monoxide, methane, and oxygen in the underground workings of two mines in the Mother Lode area from which complaints had been received by the commission from employees in these mines. Air samples were obtained at working levels and analyzed chemically in the laboratory.

LABORATORY STUDIES

Through the installation of added equipment the laboratory of the service is acquiring facilities for the studies of potentially harmful industrial dusts, gases, vapors, fumes and chemicals. During the past three months studies have been made of dust in a talc mill and mine; redwood flour from a lumber mill; dust from a rock crushing and paving plant; solvents used in cleaning paint brushes and the coating of welding rods. Analyses have been made of air samples taken from mines. Analyses were made of the coating of neon tubes to determine the presence of toxic materials that may affect the health of glass blowers who may be working on such tubes.

Instruments used in field studies of potential health hazards are calibrated in the laboratory at frequent intervals in order to insure accuracy in readings.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

During the past quarter 718 reports of occupational disease cases have been received from the State Industrial Accident Commission. The most common causes of such diseases reported, with the percentage of total cases due to each, are as follows: Dermatitis producers, 16.4%; radiant energy, 16.4%; organic solvents, 7.0%; alkalies, 6.4%; silicates, 6.4%; organic dusts, 6.4%; chemicals, 6.0%; infections, 5.1%.

INDUSTRIAL SURVEY OF WINERIES

Arrangements have been made with the California Wine Institute to make a survey of industrial hazards in wineries throughout the state. This survey will be made at once in order to take advantage of the seasonal nature of the industry. In addition to obtaining general information on medical, safety, and wel-

fare provisions, and occupational analyses of individual workrooms with data on material exposures and control measures in the plants selected for study, quantitative determinations of the concentration of alcohol vapors and carbon dioxide will be made at locations where these materials may constitute potential occupational health hazards.

CARDIAC FORUM IN SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Heart Committee has announced an all-day session for medical social workers, public health nurses, and teachers who may be interested in the prevention of heart disease. This forum will be held Wednesday, November 16, 1938, in conjunction with the San Francisco Heart Committee's Ninth Annual Postgraduate Symposium on Heart Disease, which will be held during the same week.

The morning session will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon meeting from 2 to 4.30 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the auditorium of the San Francisco Department of Public Health at Polk and Grove streets. All individuals who are interested in the problems associated with the prevention of heart disease are invited to attend.

On the evening of the same day, the Cardiac Forum group will meet with the public health section of the San Francisco Heart Committee's Symposium. The place of this meeting will be announced later. It will be open to the general public.

The programs for both of these meetings are in the course of preparation. They will include demonstrations, lectures, and round-table discussions by public health nurses, physicians, medical social workers, teachers, dietitians, and others whose association with the public health aspect of the problem make them qualified to discuss the prevention of heart disease. A copy of the program, when completed, will be sent to all who make application to the San Francisco Heart Committee, Room 802, 604 Mission Street, San Francisco.

NEW VENEREAL CLINIC FOR OAKLAND

Plans and budget for a new venereal disease clinic in Oakland have been approved by the State Department of Public Health. The clinic will open under the direction of Dr. N. N. Ashley, City Health Officer, as soon as remodeling is completed. State and federal health funds will provide physician personnel, a clinic attendant, equipment, drugs, and record forms in this city clinic, which will be open six days and evenings a week.

SYMPOSIUM ON HEART DISEASE

The ninth annual postgraduate symposium on heart disease, given by the Heart Committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society, will be held November 15, 16, 17, 1938. Registration closes November 9, 1938, at the office of the San Francisco Heart Committee, 604 Mission Street, San Francisco. After that date physicians are asked to report for registration at the University of California Hospital, Tuesday, November 15th, between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.

Sessions will be held at the following hospitals: Stanford University Hospital, University of California Hospital, San Francisco Hospital, and Laguna Honda Home. Morning sessions will be devoted to study groups with not more than five or ten doctors in attendance. These sessions will include demonstration of patients presenting problems in heart disease, evaluation of specific diagnostic procedures and therapy, differential diagnosis, and treatment.

General sessions will be held each afternoon. Subjects will cover the diagnosis and treatment of heart irregularities, problems in degenerative heart disease, and therapy of heart failure. At a general session to be held Tuesday evening, November 15th, technical demonstrations in heart disease will be included in the program. The Wednesday evening session will be open to the public and will cover heart disease from a public health standpoint. This session will be held in the Veterans' Auditorium. The closing session on Tuesday evening, November 17, 1938, will be a dinner meeting.

The program for the symposium is being arranged by the following physicians: John J. Sampson, M.D., chairman; Walter H. Brown, M.D.; Richard D. Friedlander, M.D.; Gordon E. Hein, M.D.; William J. Kerr, M.D.; William W. Newman, M.D.; J. Marion Read, M.D.; William P. Shepard, M.D. Applications for registration should be addressed to Dr. William W. Newman, secretary, San Francisco Heart Committee, 604 Mission Street, Room 802, San Francisco.

RICHMOND VENEREAL CLINIC EXPANDS

Clinic periods for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases at the Richmond Health Center have been increased through assistance given by the State Department of Public Health.

Two full days a week will be devoted to venereal disease treatment. A state physician will conduct the clinic with two local physicians acting as consultants.

Men will be treated from 1 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Women on Wednesdays from 9 to 5. Women who are employed will be admitted to the Monday

evening clinic. New patients, both men and women, will be examined on Wednesday afternoons.

Sponsored by the Richmond Citizen's Committee, free Wassermann tests for everyone will be taken by the state in the Health Center on Mondays from 1 to 4 and again from 6 to 8 p.m., on Wednesday from 9 to 4 p.m. and on Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m.

A state public health nurse, assigned to Contra Costa County, will assist the clinic and private physicians. The Bureau of Venereal Diseases also furnishes drugs and record forms to the clinic and to physicians in private practice.

PHYSICIANS ADDED TO VENEREAL DISEASE BUREAU

Efforts of local health departments to control syphilis and gonorrhea will be strengthened by the assistance of nine young physicians assigned by the Bureau of Venereal Diseases to work in clinics and conduct educational activities.

They are the first graduates of the postgraduate training course in the control of venereal diseases sponsored by the State Department of Public Health at the University of California in Berkeley. Another group of physicians will start training in February and will be available for assistance in the development of local programs in May.

A special lecturer has been assigned to work with women's groups in northern California.

CHANGES AMONG HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. Alexander B. Bigler has been appointed City Health Officer of Chowchilla. Dr. A. C. Atwood was formerly City Health Officer of this community.

The city of Needles has transferred the administration of its public health affairs to the San Bernardino County full-time health unit. Dr. W. W. Fenton is the County Health Officer.

Dr. Cornwall C. Everman is now City Health Officer of Larkspur, in Marin County, and Dr. David G. Schmidt is the City Health Officer of Corte Madera, in Marin County. Both of these communities were formerly served by Dr. Louis L. Robinson.

If men gave three times as much attention as they now do to ventilation, ablution, and exercise in the open air, and only one third as much to eating, luxury, and late hours, the number of doctors, dentists and apothecaries, and the amount of neuralgia, dyspepsia, gout, fever, and consumption, would be changed in a corresponding ratio.—J. F. Clerk.

MORBIDITY

Complete Report for Following Diseases for Week Ending
October 8, 1938.

Chickenpox

134 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 2, Berkeley 8, Hayward 2, Oakland 13, Humboldt County 3, Eureka 27, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 8, Maywood 1, Marin County 3, San Anselmo 1, Napa 2, Orange County 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 2, National City 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 40, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Bruno 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Clara County 1, Sunnyvale 2, Sonoma County 1, Modesto 1.

Diphtheria

34 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 2, Azusa 1, Los Angeles 16, Monrovia 2, Orange County 2, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 1, Lodi 1, Sonoma County 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 2, Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 2.

German Measles

19 cases: Berkeley 2, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 4, Newport Beach 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 2, Santa Clara County 1, Sonoma County 1, Tehama County 2.

Influenza

11 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 5, Manhattan 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, Yuba County 1.

Malaria

4 cases: Sanger 1, Blythe 1, Tulare County 1, Winters 1.

Measles

169 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 2, Berkeley 1, Oakland 21, Contra Costa County 4, Walnut Creek 1, Los Angeles County 3, Beverly Hills 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 6, Lynwood 1, Gustine 1, Monterey 1, Santa Ana 4, Plumas County 4, Banning 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 75, Lodi 2, Stockton 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 22, Sonoma County 5, Tehama County 2, Tulare County 1.

Mumps

236 cases: Alameda County 12, Alameda 1, Berkeley 33, Emeryville 8, Oakland 37, San Leandro 1, Contra Costa County 3, El Cerrito 4, Richmond 2, Walnut Creek 2, Fresno 1, Sanger 3, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 4, Los Angeles County 10, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 16, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, San Fernando 3, Sierra Madre 2, South Gate 2, San Anselmo 3, Mendocino County 1, Monterey County 3, Orange County 2, Anaheim 3, Santa Ana 1, Tustin 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 1, San Diego 10, San Francisco 23, San Joaquin County 2, Lodi 1, Stockton 5, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara 3, San Jose 6, Santa Clara 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 4, Modesto 2, Tulare County 2, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

27 cases: Jackson 1, Humboldt County 2, Eureka 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 6, Placentia 1, Placer County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 1, Stockton 1.

Scarlet Fever

103 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Concord 1, Pittsburg 2, Walnut Creek 2, Fresno 2, Eureka 2, Inyo County 1, Kern County 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 8, Burbank 2, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 27, Pasadena 3, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 2, Whittier 2, South Gate 1, Monterey County 2, Orange County 5, Santa Ana 1, Plumas County 2, Beaumont 1, Indio 1, Sacramento County 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Clara County 4, Santa Cruz County 1, Shasta County 1, Sonoma County 3, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 1, Yuba County 2, California 1.*

Smallpox

4 cases: Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Monterey County 1, San Francisco 1.

Typhoid Fever

12 cases: Inyo County 5, Long Beach 1, Madera 1, San Diego 1, Gilroy 1, San Jose 1, California 2.*

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Whooping Cough

153 cases: Alameda County 4, Alameda 1, Berkeley 6, Oakland 8, San Leandro 1, Eureka 21, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 18, Pasadena 4, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, South Gate 2, Marin County 4, Monterey County 3, Napa 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 7, Plumas County 1, Oceanside 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 22, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Lompoc 10, Santa Barbara 1, Shasta County 1, Sonoma County 4, Ventura County 9, Fillmore 5, Oxnard 3, Ventura 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case: Imperial County.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

6 cases: Oakland 2, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 3.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

16 cases: Walnut Creek 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 3, Montebello 4, Whittier 1, Sonoma County 1, California 5.*

Pellagra

2 cases: Richmond 1, Sonoma County 1.

Poliomyelitis

One case: Kern County.

Tetanus

One case: Oakland.

Trachoma

24 cases: Alhambra 1, Hemet 2, Indio 21.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Sanger 1, Kings County 1.

Trichinosis

One case: San Francisco.

Botulism

One case: San Diego County.

Food Poisoning

41 cases: Oakland 35, Santa Ana 1, San Francisco 5.

Undulant Fever

8 cases: South Gate 1, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 2, Santa Cruz County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

5 cases: Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1, Paso Robles 1, Tulare County 2.

Septic Sore Throat

One case: Mendocino County.

Relapsing Fever

One case: Mono County.

Rabies (Animal)

17 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 3, Santa Clara County 6, Mountain View 1, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 2.

There is this difference between the two temporal blessings—health and money; money is the most envied, but the least enjoyed; health is the most enjoyed, but the least envied; and this superiority of the latter is still more obvious when we reflect that the poorest man would not part with health for money, but that the richest would gladly part with all his money for health.—Colton.